LPG agencies allotted in Arunachal Pradesh

849. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted in Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years and till date, district-wise;

(b) the target fixed for allotment of new LPG agencies in the State during 2000-2001; and

(c) the steps being taken, so far, to achieve this goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) During the last three years (i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and April 1999 till date) the oil companies have allotted 5 LPG distributorships in Arunachal Pradesh.

In addition 3 LPG distributorships have been advertised by the oil companies for selection of distributors through the Dealer Selection Boards. Dealer Selection Boards have since been dissolved. It generally takes 6 to 12 months for commissioning of dealership/distributorship from the date of interview.

Identification of new areas for oil exploration

850. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some new areas for oil exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof, during the last two years; and

(c) whether drilling operations in these areas have commenced and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Exploration of hydrocarbons is an on-going process, consisting of seismic data acquisition, processing, interpretation, prospect identification and drilling. During the last